

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of covering a pot having an upper rim ~~end~~, and containing a floral grouping, comprising:

providing a tubular sleeve having an upper end, a closed lower end, a decorative base portion and a tapered portion, the tubular sleeve having a first side, a second side, an inner peripheral surface, an outer peripheral surface, an inner retaining space surrounded and defined by the inner peripheral surface, the upper end having a non-linear edge, the tubular sleeve ~~initially~~ constructed to have a flattened condition and the tubular sleeve free of an upper portion sized to surround and encompass the floral grouping disposed within the pot; and

opening the tubular sleeve to expose the inner retaining space and disposing the pot and floral grouping contained therein into the inner retaining space.

2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein, in the step of providing a tubular sleeve, the base portion has a drainage hole therein.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein, in the step of providing a tubular sleeve, the base portion has a ventilation hole therein.

4. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 wherein, in the step of opening the tubular sleeve, at least a portion of the edge of the upper end of the tubular sleeve is positioned near the upper ~~rim~~ end of the pot.

5. (Currently Amended) A method of covering a pot having an upper ~~rim~~ end, and containing a floral grouping, comprising:

providing a tubular sleeve having an upper end, a closed lower end, a decorative base portion and a tapered portion, the tubular sleeve having a first side, a second side, an inner peripheral surface, an outer peripheral surface, an inner retaining space surrounded and defined by the inner peripheral surface, the upper end having a non-linear edge, the tubular sleeve ~~initially~~ constructed to have a flattened condition and the tubular sleeve free of an upper portion sized to surround and encompass the floral grouping disposed within the pot;

opening the tubular sleeve to expose the inner retaining space and disposing the pot and floral grouping contained therein into the inner retaining space; and

securing the tubular sleeve about the pot with a bonding element selected from the group consisting of strings, ties, ribbons, wires, bands, elastic bands, rubber bands, and shrink materials.

6. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein, in the step of providing a tubular sleeve, the base portion has a drainage hole therein.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein, in the step of providing a tubular sleeve, the base portion has a ventilation hole therein.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 wherein, in the step of opening the tubular sleeve, at least a portion of the edge of the upper end of the tubular sleeve is positioned near the upper ~~rim~~ end of the pot.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of covering a pot having an upper ~~rim~~ end, and containing a floral grouping, comprising:

providing a tubular sleeve having an upper end, a closed lower end, a decorative base portion and a tapered portion, the tubular sleeve having a first side, a second side, an outer peripheral surface, an inner peripheral surface, and an inner retaining space surrounded and defined by the inner

peripheral surface, the upper end having an edge, the tubular sleeve ~~initially~~ constructed to have a flattened condition and the closed lower end having a horizontally-sealed portion therein in the flattened condition and the tubular sleeve free of an upper portion sized to surround and encompass the floral grouping disposed within the pot; and

opening the tubular sleeve to expose the inner retaining space and disposing the pot and floral grouping contained therein into the inner retaining space.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein, in the step of providing a tubular sleeve, the base portion has a drainage hole therein.

11. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein, in the step of providing a tubular sleeve, the base portion has a ventilation hole therein.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 9 wherein, in the step of opening the tubular sleeve, at least a portion of the edge of the upper end of the tubular sleeve is positioned near the upper ~~rim~~ end of the pot.

13. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein in the step of providing a tubular sleeve, the edge of the upper end is non-linear.

14. (Currently Amended) A method of covering a pot having an upper rim ~~end~~, and containing a floral grouping, comprising:

providing a tubular sleeve having an upper end, a closed lower end, a decorative base portion and a tapered portion, the tubular sleeve having a first side, a second side, an outer peripheral surface, an inner peripheral surface, and an inner retaining space surrounded and defined by the inner peripheral surface, the upper end having an edge, the tubular sleeve ~~initially~~ constructed to have a flattened condition and the closed lower end having a horizontally-sealed portion therein in the flattened condition and the tubular sleeve free of an upper portion sized to surround and encompass the floral grouping disposed within the pot;

opening the tubular sleeve to expose the inner retaining space and disposing the pot and floral grouping contained therein into the inner retaining space; and

securing the tubular sleeve about the pot with a bonding element selected from the group consisting of strings, ties, ribbons, wires, bands, elastic bands, rubber bands, and shrink materials.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein, in the step of providing a tubular sleeve, the base portion has a drainage hole therein.

16. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein, in the step of providing a tubular sleeve, the base portion has a ventilation hole therein.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 14 wherein, in the step of opening the tubular sleeve, at least a portion of the edge of the upper end of the tubular sleeve is positioned near the upper ~~rim~~ end of the pot.

18. (Original) The method of claim 14 wherein in the step of providing a tubular sleeve, the edge of the upper end is non-linear.